

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A flat lamp, comprising:

- an upper glass plate;
- a bottom glass plate;
- at least one sidewall to form a closed space with the upper glass plate and the bottom glass plate;
- at least two electrodes parallel extending into the closed space;
- at least two rear sleeves positioned in the closed space to support the electrodes; and
- at least two front glass sleeves secured on the bottom glass plate between sidewalls,

wherein the electrodes extend from the closed space outward through the front glass sleeves and elongate freely in the front glass sleeves due to heat.

2. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end surface of the electrode to the rear glass sleeve are spaced apart.

3. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elongation of the electrodes due to heating is less than the sum of the linear heating expansion of the rear glass sleeve and the spacing.

4. (Currently Amended) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rear glass sleeve is secured on the bottom glass plate between the sidewalls, and the electrode is held therein.

5. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front glass sleeve is secured on the bottom glass plate and the electrodes are held therein.

6. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rear glass sleeve is melted to seal the closed space.

7. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front glass sleeve is melted to secure the electrode and seal the closed space.

8. (Currently Amended) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front glass sleeve is bonded to the bottom glass plate between the sidewalls and the closed space is sealed by means of glass gel.

9. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes are inserted and secured through the front glass sleeves by melting the front glass sleeves.

10. (Original) The flat lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrodes are inserted and secured through the front glass sleeves by glass gel.